

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this response, claim 5 is amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishigami (2002/0118291) in view of Hatlestad (US 5,555,464). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For reasons of brevity, applicant's remarks filed in the Response dated March 4, 2005 are hereby incorporated by reference.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, said photosensitive cells being arranged bi-dimensionally in such position that each of said photosensitive cells is shifted in position from adjoining ones of said photosensitive cells in a horizontal and a vertical direction.

Also, claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, the transfer electrodes associated with ones of the photosensitive cells which are positioned on odd or even numbered lines in response to the drive signals to reduce pixels in the horizontal direction by vertical thinning, where each of the photosensitive cells is shifted in position from adjoining ones of photosensitive cells in a horizontal and vertical direction.

In the previous Office Action, applicant discussed the arrangement of the photosensitive cells with regard to an embodiment illustrating the honeycomb structure as illustrated in Figs. 2A and 4A. Applicants note that although the embodiment discloses photosensitive cells in a honeycomb structure, it is the arrangement of the photosensitive cells where each of the photosensitive cells is shifted in position in the vertical and horizontal directions from each other photosensitive cells that allows for the benefit of vertical thinning when transferring electrodes

from the photosensitive cells. Discussion of the honeycomb cells was merely illustrative of the above features.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ishigami and Hatlestad fail to teach this particular feature of the claims.

Specifically, Ishigami teaches an arrangement of photosensitive cells in a lattice box-type structure in which each of the photosensitive cells are exactly aligned with each of adjacent photosensitive cells in the vertical and horizontal direction. The photosensitive cells are not shifted in position in the vertical and horizontal direction. See Fig. 1, Fig. 9, Fig. 14, Fig. 15, Fig. 16, and Figs. 22-25.

Further, Hatlestad also teaches an arrangement of photosensitive cells in a lattice box type structure similar to that taught in Ishigami. As illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of Hatlestad, the photosensitive cells arranged in columns and rows in which each photosensitive cell is directly aligned with adjacent photosensitive cells in the vertical and horizontal direction and not shifted in position as in the present invention.

Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, as well as in the previous Office Action, applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Ishigami and Hatlestad fails to teach each and every feature of the claims as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

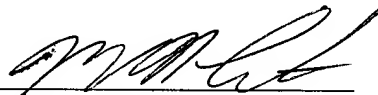
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael R. Cammarata

Registration No.: 39,491

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

MRC/CJB:cb